

Message Text

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42

ACTION NEA-16

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SCS-03 SCA-01 L-03 H-03 SS-20 NSC-07

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FM AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI

TO AMCONSUL CALCUTTA

INFO SECSTATE WASHDC 2500

C O N F I D E N T I A L NEW DELHI 8967

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, CASC, IN

SUBJECT: HARCOS/FLETCHER

1. TEJA CALLED THIS MORNING TO ASK ME WHAT NEW INFORMATION I HAD ABOUT HARCOS/FLETCHER. I CALLED HIM BACK THIS AFTERNOON AFTER I HAD RECEIVED YOUR TELEGRAM AND TOLD HIM THAT YOU HAD HAD FURTHER DISCUSSIONS WITH THE LAWYER AND THE CHIEF MINISTER AND THAT YOU HAD SUGGESTED TO THE LAWYER THAT HE AGAIN RAISE THE QUESTION OF BAIL.

2. I TOLD TEJA, HOWEVER, THAT THERE SEEMED TO BE A VALID QUESTION AS TO WHETHER BAIL COULD BE GRANTED SO LONG AS THE CHARGES REMAINED WHAT THEY ARE. I REMINDED HIM THAT THE PROSECUTION'S PETITION WAS STILL TALKING ABOUT ESPIONAGE. TEJA TRIED TO PASS OFF THE PROSECUTION'S PETITION AS MERELY PICKING UP THE LANGUAGE OF THE OFFICIAL SECRETS ACT AND SAID THAT THE IMPORTANT THING WAS TO PURSUE THE MATTER OF BAIL. I SAID THAT YOU HAD DONE THIS IN ALL OF YOUR CONVERSATIONS YESTERDAY.

COMMENT: ALTHOUGH I COULDN'T PIN TEJA DOWN, I SUSPECT THAT THE ONLY POINT THAT HE IS SURE THE PRIME MINISTER MADE IS THAT THE PRISONERS SHOULD BE GOTTEN OUT OF JAIL. HE SAID HE FRANKLY DID NOT KNOW JUST WHAT THE PRIME MINISTER DID SAY TO RAY. ALTHOUGH HE DID EVERYTHING HE COULD TO AVOID GETTING INVOLVED IN THE QUESTION OF CHARGES, HE DID SAY THAT HE WOULD INFORM THE FOREIGN SECRETARY OF WHAT I
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SAID. UNDER THE CIRCUMSTANCES I BELIEVE WE SHOULD CONTINUE

TO PURSUE WHAT THE CHIEF MINISTER SUGGESTS
AND THAT SEEMS TO BE BAIL. IF WE GET THAT, WE CAN GO ON FROM THERE.
IF THE NATURE OF THE CHARGES INTERFERES, THEN IT IS THE GOI
WHICH MUST DO SOMETHING ABOUT THAT IN ORDER TO CARRY OUT THE
PRIME MINISTER'S INSTRUCTIONS.
SCHNEIDER

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NNN

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